



Rural Multimedia

Quality of Service

Handbook

NTIA Institute for Telecommunication Sciences

Highlights

- Interactive Reference and Tutorial on Multimedia Quality of Service Issues
- Provides Details on Matching User Requirements to Systems and Services
- Includes Hundreds of Illustrative Audio and Video Clips
- Implemented as a Multimedia CD-ROM
- Includes an Extensive Telecommunications Glossary

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Rural Multimedia Quality of Service Handbook

Version 1.0

A Reference for Users of
Multimedia Communications
Systems

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Institute for Telecommunication Sciences
Boulder, Colorado



Cover of the Rural Multimedia QoS Handbook

Purpose of the Handbook

The Rural Multimedia Quality of Service Handbook was developed to serve the role of a tutor and advisor in the specification of multimedia communication systems. In particular, the Handbook focuses on issues related to the performance of such systems, especially on how decisions made concerning such issues determine the quality of service provided. The Handbook does not automatically design a telecommunications system. Instead, it assists a user in developing a portion of the background that is important in communicating with telecommunications professionals. The developers of the Handbook have attempted to produce a reference document that is useful to anyone interested in the subject, whether or not they have a technical background. And, despite its name, the Handbook is useful in non-rural as well as rural environments.

Handbook Operation

The Handbook was implemented as a Microsoft Windows application program for use on an IBM PC compatible multimedia capable computer. Hardware and software requirements for use of this program are relatively modest. The Handbook was designed to take advantage of currently available multimedia technology in the presentation of information. At the simplest level, hypertext links are provided within the Handbook text that allow definitions of terms and other information associated with a current topic to be easily found. In addition, where appropriate, relevant pictorial and graphical information, video clips, and audio clips have been embedded (or linked) into sections of the Handbook.

Handbook Applets

One of the most unique features of the Handbook is its use of tools that Handbook developers call Applets. In the context of the Handbook, Applets are used to assist in the interactive collection or presentation of information. For example, one Applet included with the current edition of the Handbook guides a user through the specification of the basic communication requirements necessary for a multimedia application. At the conclusion of the process automated by the Applet, a summary of the defined requirements is presented for review and subsequent printing.